Statement-II

Funds sanctioned and released against the projects sanctioned under NEC during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the NE States (As on 29.02.2008)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Funds sanctioned/ released during 2006-07	Fund sanctioned/ released during 2007-08 (upto Feb,' 08)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	43.71	36.72
2	Assam	121.14	64.84
3	Manipur	20.33	23.40
4	Meghalaya	57.40	43.68
5	Mizoram	40.61	30.67
6	Nagaland	39.33	37.88
7	Sikkim	26.73	34.07
8	Tripura	36.25	34.16
	TOTAL:	385.50	305.42

Tigers in Jharkhand

†2197. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of tigers in the country has come down to 1411 only in year 2006 in comparison to 3642 in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action being taken in this regard;

(d) whether the number of tigers has been ascertained in Jharkhand;

(e) if so, the number thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The total country-level population of tiger is **1411** (mid value); the lower and upper limits are **1165** and **1657** respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcoming in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tigher population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. The initiatives taken by Government of India towards tiger conservation are given in the Statement (*See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) to (f) Due to insurgency problem, only spatial occupancy of tiger in the State was inferred through a questionnaire, and the data was not amenable for estimating numbers.

Statement

Details of initiatives taken by Government of India towards tiger conservation

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.
2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for development of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidiciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. The revised Project Tiger gudelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlment of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.
8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan',

addressing issues relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/ fringe area).

10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

11. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, co-predators and prey animals.

Dwindling population of wild animals

2198. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite fast dwindling population of tigers, lions and other wild cats, and the tiger protection, preservation and promotion project launched by the Prime Minister, the tiger and lion population has been fast dwindling;

(b) the population of tiger, lion and other wild cats, as per last three headcounts; and

(c) the specific steps taken during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in population of wild animals is a natural phenomenon. However, there are no specific reports available with this Ministry to indicate that the population of tiger and lion is fast dwindling in the country. The All India Estimation of Tiger, co-predators and its prey was carried out recently in the tiger range states of the country using a modified and integrated methodology as recommended by the Tiger Task Force. The details are given in Statement-I (*See* below). However, in view of the modified new methodology adopted in the process, which is a benchmark in itself, it cannot be compared with the previous estimation of wild animals. The details of the population of wild lion in the country as estimated during the last three head counts are at Statement-II (*See* below). Data on the population estimation of other wild cats is not collated at Central Government level.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India during the last three years to strengthen wildlife conservation, *inter alia,* include the following:

1. The Wildlife (Protection Act, 1972 has been amended in 2006 to strengthen the wildlife conservation initiatives.

2. National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted in 2006 to strengthen tiger conservation initiatives in the country.

3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up in 2007 to control wildlife crime.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes — *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant,* to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.